

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL  
LAWRENCE

**HON. RON PACKARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to reiterate my admiration for our men and women in uniform. These courageous soldiers risk their lives daily, both on and off the battlefield.

Our soldiers give the ultimate level of commitment by defending freedom, not just for the citizens of this great country, but also for others around the world. Today the soldiers in the Baltic region are specifically in our thoughts. We all look forward to their quick and safe return home to their families.

Our military forces are a magnificent team. All the branches of service work together to ensure the security for our nation. Whether these soldiers are training at home or defending freedom abroad, this well-oiled machine has become one of the best fighting forces the world has ever known.

Recently there was a tragic loss in my District at Camp Pendleton Marine Base. A Marine soldier heroically gave his life during a daily training exercise and in turn saved the life of a fellow Marine. The quick thinking of Corporal Bobby J. Lawrence saved his partner, but sadly took the life of this bright young man. Thank you Corporal Lawrence for your honor. You are truly the epitome of what makes our military great, and this country will forever be proud to claim you as a United States Marine. Our thoughts and gratitude are with your family.

Mr. Speaker, we should never forget the dedication of the men and women for our Armed Services. The courage shown by Corporal Lawrence is an example of the price some often pay so that others can enjoy freedom. The sacrifices of our brave military personnel should not be forgotten.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WELFARE  
TO WORK AMENDMENTS OF 1999

**HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, to ensure the long-term success of welfare reform, we must confront two hard truths. First, as welfare rolls decline, those remaining on assistance are increasingly likely to be those who have multiple barriers to employment, such as low levels of education, language barriers, disabilities, and substance abuse problems. These barriers will require major investments to overcome—certainly far greater resources than provided to many of those who have left welfare over the last few years. This issue becomes even more important when you consider that by the end of 1999, recipients and their children will have reached welfare time limits in 19 states. And second, the primary responsibility for raising low-income children is too often left solely to mothers. It is true the welfare reform law

strengthened our Nation's child support enforcement system, but that does not address situations in which non-custodial fathers want to support their children but do not have a job. In short, our current programs and policies do not make a clear enough distinction between deadbeat dads and dead broke dads.

To address these two critical issues, I rise today to introduce legislation to reauthorize the Welfare to Work program. The bill would provide \$1 billion in FY 2000 to help long-term and hard-to-employ welfare recipients join the work force and to help non-custodial parents support their children. The legislation would extend the Welfare to Work (WtW) program established by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, which provided \$1.5 billion a year in FY 1998 and FY 1999 for states and local communities to help move a long-term welfare recipients in high poverty areas into jobs and help them succeed in the work force.

By providing greater flexibility to States and localities, the legislation would make substantial improvements to the original WtW program. The focus would continue to be on long-term recipients or the fathers of their children, but the program would be considerably simpler to operate. For example, under this proposal, eligible participants would be those which meet at least one, rather than two, barriers to employment. Furthermore, the list of barriers would be expanded to include with disabilities, those who are homeless, or those who have been victims of domestic violence. In addition, the first barrier listed in current law, which requires that the recipient not have a high school diploma and have low skills in reading or math would be split into two categories in order to serve those who gained a degree but whose low skills still form a major barrier to employment. And finally, the bill would allow States to offer vocational education to WtW participants and allow services to be provided to children aging out of the foster care system.

Noncustodial fathers will also face simpler eligibility requirements, so long as they agree to establish paternity and to pay child support once they are employed. The importance of non-custodial fathers in children's lives is often forgotten, except when it is time to collect child support. The majority of children on welfare live with a single parent, and only about 20% of them receive child support from their noncustodial parent. The vast majority of these noncustodial parents are either unemployed or only able to obtain intermittent, low-wage employment. Assisting these fathers in finding and keeping employment and increasing their earnings is therefore critical to enhancing child support payments and to increasing their involvement in their children's lives. For these reasons, at least 20% of new formula funds would be targeted to noncustodial parents.

Under this proposal, as under current law, about 75 percent of Welfare-to-Work funds will be allocated to States on a formula basis, with 85 percent of these funds passed through to local Private Industry Councils of Workforce Boards. The remaining 25 percent of the funds will continue to be awarded on a competitive basis by the Department of Labor to support innovative projects by a variety of private and public organizations.

In 1998, the first year of the WtW program, 44 States, the District of Columbia, Guam,

Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands received Welfare-to-Work formula grants. Approximately \$368 million in competitive grants have also been awarded by the Department of Labor to 126 grantees in communities throughout the country. A third round of competitive grants will be awarded in 1999, with high priority for applications which focus on recipients or non-custodial parents with limited English proficiency, disabilities, substance abuse problems, or a history of domestic violence. It is worth noting that there was only sufficient resources to fund one out of every ten applications for the first two rounds of the competitive grant program.

In Baltimore, Maryland, part of which I represent in Congress, the City Office of Employment Development received a 1998 competitive grant of \$3.3 million to provide comprehensive services to recipients and non-custodial fathers in public housing. Participants will work for 6 months in supported jobs (while also getting life skills training), and then be placed in unsubsidized employment. Baltimore is also the headquarters for three major national efforts supported by \$16.5 million in Welfare-to-Work competitive funds. The efforts are managed by Marriot International, by Johns Hopkins University, and by the Enterprise Foundation. In each case, these nationally recognized organizations will be testing innovative, work-oriented strategies focused on job retention, skills development and career advancement.

Mr. Speaker, the Welfare to Work program helps the hardest-to-employ welfare recipients make the transition to employment. I urge all of my colleagues to support this extension of the program to ensure the long-term success of welfare reform not only in reducing dependency but also in reducing poverty.

IN HONOR OF THE 1ST ANNUAL  
DONOR AWARENESS BIKE-A-THON

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the 1st Annual Donor Awareness Bike-A-Thon which will occur on Sunday, April 25. This event, which consists of an eleven mile course around Lake Quinsigamond, will raise awareness and money for the University of Massachusetts Memorial Blood Donor Center, the HLA Registry Foundation, Inc., and The New England Organ Bank. Individuals and their families who have donated or received blood products, bone marrow and organ and tissue transplants will be there to bike for and/or lend their support to the issue of supply and demand for these "Gifts of Life."

As we draw attention to this event, the 1st Annual Donor Awareness Bike-A-Thon, it is important to remember that every day in the United States fifteen individuals die for lack of an organ, ten die for lack of a compatible bone marrow match, and countless others are dependent upon blood transfusions.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to commend the organizers and participants of this event for their great efforts.